



SALMON

Stand Alone Missions of Opportunity Notice (SALMON)
Announcement of Opportunity (AO)

Pre-Proposal Conference Answers to Submitted Questions

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Question 1

Are proposals to cooperate in Chinese National Space Administration (CNSA) missions allowed?

NASA and CNSA have only recently begun having discussions about future exchanges of data and research in Earth and space science. These discussions are at a very early stage, and whether they continue or not depends on factors that are outside of NASA's control. So at this time, NASA cannot say whether a proposed cooperative activity with CNSA would be approved or not.

The SALMON AO does not prohibit proposals for cooperation with China. Therefore submitting such a proposal is permitted. If, at the time selection decisions are made, NASA is in a position to consider cooperation with China of the type described in the proposal, then it will be considered for selection. However, if not, then NASA will not consider the proposal. NASA cannot offer any time table whatsoever on when it might be known whether cooperation with China would be permitted.

It is up to the proposer whether to submit a proposal under these circumstances.



Question 2

Do we need a waiver if the Mission of Opportunity is launched on a foreign launch vehicle?

As described in Section 5.2 of the AO titled PMO, it is anticipated that "Such missions may be sponsored by non-U.S. governments." It is also stated "Under no circumstances will NASA pay for non-U.S. launch costs." However, as discussed in the AO in Section 4.8.4 titled U.S. Export Laws and Regulations, the proposer must comply with U.S. Export Laws and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

The U.S. Space Transportation Policy requires the use of U.S. manufactured launch vehicles for U.S. Government payloads and subjects use of foreign launch vehicles to governmental review and coordination; however, the policy is more flexible regarding the use of foreign launch vehicles on a no-exchange-of-funds bases to support flight of scientific instruments on foreign spacecraft, international scientific programs, or other cooperative government-to-government programs, as well as the use of foreign launch vehicles to launch U.S. Government secondary scientific payloads when no U.S. launch service is available.

Also note that the ITAR, lists prohibited exports and sales to certain countries, also known as the proscribed country list in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 22 Section 126.1. If a country appears on the "proscribed country" list, it is (generally) U.S. Policy to deny licenses, or other approvals, associated with exports and imports of defense articles and defense services, destined for or originating in that country. So you should not propose to launch on a foreign launch vehicle from a "proscribed county".

If you are proposing to launch a foreign launch vehicle that is not on the proscribed list and you are not asking NASA to fund it (as stated in the AO above), you need to inform NASA of the circumstances that led to the use of a foreign launch vehicle so it can be reviewed against the U.S. Space Transportation Policy; use of a foreign launch vehicle may require U.S. Government interagency review.



Question 3

Has NASA established a collaboration agreement with Korea to provide instruments to their missions?

NASA establishes international agreements on a project by project basis as described in Section 4.8.5 of the SALMON AO. Therefore, there is no existing agreement which would cover a U.S. instrument on a Korean mission. If a proposal is selected to provide an instrument to a Korean mission, then NASA will enter into discussions to put in place an appropriate agreement with Korea.



Question 4

We have been having conversations with Canadian colleagues who are going to respond to a Canadian CSA RFP for an instrument to go on a NASA planetary mission. They have asked us to participate on their science team and we were wondering if the C.25 amendment recently released for Planetary USPIs would be a vehicle for us to propose for funding to be partners on the CSA project. The idea is that we would propose to NASA and it would be contingent on the CSA proposal being accepted. Does this all make sense? Would you entertain our USPI proposal under the above scenario?

Yes, Appendix C.25 of the ROSES-08 NRA is the correct vehicle for your proposal.



Question 5

Can I propose an instrument that will be attached to the ISS?

Investigations such as the one you described, are classified as SCMs (Section 5.5). Therefore, at the moment the SALMON AO does not include a PEA to which you can submit your proposal. SALMON is a five year omnibus AO so it is possible such a PEA will be added in the future.



Question 6

Should the proposals specify the names of implementation team members such as the System Engineer, in addition to the name of the Project Manager as specified in Section 4.6.3, page 10?

The SALMON AO doesn't require that proposals specify the names of implementation team members such as the System Engineer. However, if you have team members in key positions and with significant experience that in your view reduce your implementation risk, it might be to your advantage to name them and provide their resume.



Question 7

Can you clarify whether this is a 1-step or 2-step proposal process? In Section 4.6.9, page 13 of the AO, the AO states that "No personal or institutional letters of commitment are required for Co-Is in the Step 1 proposal. Personal and institutional letters of commitment for co-Is will be required for Step 2 Concept Study Reports." However, the rest of the AO seems to imply a single-step selection process.

The SALMON AO is following a 1-step selection process. However, the investigations selected will still have to complete a Phase A Concept Study Report or equivalent to get through their KDP-B and enter Phase B.



Question 8

What kind of international commitment letter or agreement is required? Is there a standard template for foreign partners to use to express their commitment? How well-defined must the foreign spacecraft be at the time of a SALMON proposal?

The letters of commitment for non-U.S. participation are described in Section 4.8.3 of the SALMON AO. Agreements with selected non-U.S. participants are described in Section 4.8.5 of the SALMON AO. There is no specific requirement about what phase of development or maturity level the spacecraft must be at. However, the latest sponsoring organization's required date for NASA commitment for U.S. Participation is December 31, 2010.



Question 9

Is there any possibility of slipping the deadline from December 2 to December 3, 4, or 5 to allow the proposal teams a bit more time to enjoy the Thanksgiving weekend with their families?

There are no plans to move the proposal deadline.